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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/621,232	07/15/2003	Christopher W. Smith	01-02a	1201

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DAYCO PRODUCTS, LLC
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EXAMINER

HOOK, JAMES F

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3754

DATE MAILED: 07/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/621,232

Applicant(s)

SMITH ET AL.

Examiner

James F. Hook

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-11,17-19,25 and 26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-11,17-19,25 and 26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Based upon the first claim setting forth a single layer consisting of all one material, it is considered when dependent claims claim additional layers, that final product is a multilayer conduit, where the limitations of the single layer made of one material can only be read to cover a single layer of a multilayer tube. Any other reading of such would create a rejection under 25 USC 112, therefore the examiner will treat the claims as if no rejection under 35 USC 112 exists and that the limitations of claim 1 refer to a single layer of what can be a multilayer tube.

Terminal Disclaimer

The terminal disclaimer filed on November 19, 2004 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of 6,591,871 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Claim Objections

Claim 7 is objected to because of the following informalities: in the amendment to the claim it appears as if the dependency of this claim was lined through as to be removed, however, it is believed that such was a typographical error in that turning claim 7 into an independent claim would present many instances of lack of antecedent basis in the claim, and the claim would have no clear limitations. For examining purposes the examiner would consider it to still depend from claim 6. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pfleger (398).

The patent to Pfleger discloses the recited hose for use in an application where dissipation of static charge buildup is not required comprising a tubular structure where the innermost layer 2 consists of a wall that is made of PBT through the entire thickness of layer 2, where no conductive material is added to the layer.

Claims 1 and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ito (330). The reference to Ito discloses the recited tubular structure for use with fuel systems which inherently has impereability properties where the tubular structure comprises using a polyalkylene terephthalate or naphthalate such as polybutylene terephthalate , the inner layer can be formed of a single or multiple layers where elemental carbon or carbon black can be used to provide the inner layer with static dissipating properties, and where a protective cover layer can be provided which can be

made of a polyolefin such as polypropylene or polyamides such as nylons, and the use of the tube for connecting to a fuel filler funnel is considered intended use.

Claims 1, 2, 8, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brunnhofer. The reference to Brunnhofer discloses the recited tubular structure for use with fuel systems which inherently has impereability properties where the tubular structure comprises using a polyalkylene terephthalate or naphthalate such as polybutylene terephthalate ,the inner layer 1 can be formed of a single or multiple layers, and where a protective cover layer 2 can be provided which can be made of a polyolefin such as polypropylene or polyamides such as nylons, and the use of the tube for connecting to a fuel filler funnel is considered intended use.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2, 4, and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ito (330) in view of Walsh. The reference to Ito discloses all of the recited structure with the exception of using chlorinated polyolefins such as chlorinated polyethylene for the outer layer. The patent to Walsh discloses a fuel tube comprising an inner layer 12 which can be made conductive and a protective layer 14 which can be made of chlorinated polyolefins of which polyethylene and polypropylene are known polyolefins.

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It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the cover layer of Ito to be formed of a chlorinated polyolefin as suggested by Walsh as such is another type of material used for cover layers which has different and improved properties.

Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ito in view of Walsh as applied to claims 2, 4, and 5 above, and further in view of Kawazura. The patent to Ito as modified discloses all of the recited structure with the exception of providing a tie layer to connect the inner and outer layers formed of anhydride modified linear low density polyethylene. The patent to Kawazura discloses that it is old and well known to provide a connective or tie layer made of anhydride modified linear low density polyethylene to connect inner and outer layers made of different materials including PBT and PBN. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the hose in Ito as modified by providing a tie layer formed of anhydride modified linear low density polyethylene to connect the PBT or PBN layer to other material layers as suggested by Kawazura to prevent delamination and thereby save repair or replacement costs.

Claims 11, 17-19, 25, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ito in view of Walsh and Kawazura. The reference to Ito discloses all of the recited structure with the exception of using chlorinated polyolefins such as chlorinated polyethylene for the outer layer, and providing a tie layer to connect the inner and outer layers formed of anhydride modified linear low density polyethylene. The patent to Walsh discloses a fuel tube comprising an inner layer 12 which can be made conductive and a protective layer 14 which can be made of chlorinated polyolefins

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of which polyethylene and polypropylene are known polyolefins. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the cover layer of Ito to be formed of a chlorinated polyolefin as suggested by Walsh as such is another type of material used for cover layers which has different and improved properties. The patent to Kawazura discloses that it is old and well known to provide a connective or tie layer made of anhydride modified linear low density polyethylene to connect inner and outer layers made of different materials including PBT and PBN. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the hose in Ito by providing a tie layer formed of anhydride modified linear low density polyethylene to connect the PBT or PBN layer to other material layers as suggested by Kawazura to prevent delamination and thereby save repair or replacement costs.

Claims 2, 4, and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brunnhofer in view of Walsh. The reference to Brunnhofer discloses all of the recited structure with the exception of using chlorinated polyolefins such as chlorinated polyethylene for the outer layer. The patent to Walsh discloses a fuel tube comprising an inner layer 12 which can be made conductive and a protective layer 14 which can be made of chlorinated polyolefins of which polyethylene and polypropylene are known polyolefins. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the cover layer of Brunnhofer to be formed of a chlorinated polyolefin as suggested by Walsh as such is another type of material used for cover layers which has different and improved properties.

Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brunnhofer in view of Walsh as applied to claims 2, 4, and 5 above, and further in view of Kawazura. The patent to Brunnhofer as modified discloses all of the recited structure with the exception of providing a tie layer to connect the inner and outer layers formed of anhydride modified linear low density polyethylene. The patent to Kawazura discloses that it is old and well known to provide a connective or tie layer made of anhydride modified linear low density polyethylene to connect inner and outer layers made of different materials including PBT and PBN. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the hose in Brunnhofer as modified by providing a tie layer formed of anhydride modified linear low density polyethylene to connect the PBT or PBN layer to other material layers as suggested by Kawazura to prevent delamination and thereby save repair or replacement costs.

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another type of material used for cover layers which has different and improved properties. The patent to Kawazura discloses that it is old and well known to provide a connective or tie layer made of anhydride modified linear low density polyethylene to connect inner and outer layers made of different materials including PBT and PBN. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the hose in Brunnhofer by providing a tie layer formed of anhydride modified linear low density polyethylene to connect the PBT or PBN layer to other material layers as suggested by Kawazura to prevent delamination and thereby save repair or replacement costs.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The patents to Pfleger (468) and Katayama (185) disclosing state of the art hoses.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed May 17, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. With respect to the arguments, such are directed essentially solely to the limitations found in the independent claims and which are rejected under various references under 35 USC 102. The basis of the argument is that the independent claims claim a tubular structure which "consists essentially of" PBT or PBN which excludes references to more than one layer, however, as mentioned above the language of the independent claims describes a tubular layer which consists essentially of PBT or PBN which has an inner and outer surface. The references to Ito (330), and Brunnhofer disclose a single layer that meets this limitation which is all that the claim

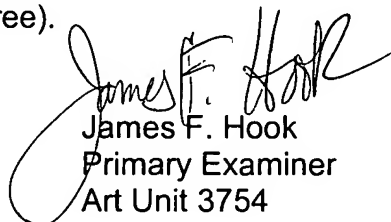
requires, where the claims do not require only one layer, and also do not suggest that the inner and outer surfaces are the innermost and outermost, therefore, the inclusion of additional layers still meets the claim language especially in light of claim 2 which adds additional layers to the layer of claim 1 thereby forming a multilayer structure the same as the references teach. It is noted, however, that there is prior art which teaches tubes can be made of single layers, or multiple layers as needed, and such may not be allowable should applicant correct the language of the claims to only recite a tube of a single layer of a single material. With respect to the inclusion of carbon black, such is merely an additive, and it is considered that such would not change the material used, specifically such would still be PBT or PBN, regardless of other additives, and in addition Ito which preferably contains carbon black does not suggest it must be used. Ito states that the carbon black is preferably provided but does not require that it has to be there in order for the layer to function as an inner resistant liner layer. Until such is positively recited as a claim limitation it is considered that the term consisting essentially of would not exclude specific additives which are known as being used with specific materials and is specific intended uses for the tubes. With respect to Brunnhofer, an argument toward the PBT layer having carbon black is not persuasive where Brunnhofer does not require carbon black be added to the PBT layer but an inner layer from the PBT layer, therefore such is not an argument supported by the prior art when Brunnhofer does not suggest what applicant states it does. With respect to the rejections under 35 USC 103, there are no additional arguments directed toward the combination of references, only a suggestion that such stand or fall based upon the

alleged shortcomings of the base references, which were discussed above, and believed to still read on the claims as set forth above. Therefore, it is apparent that applicant concedes the appropriateness of the combination of references. With respect to the allowability of the parent case, such was not based upon the use of PBT or PBN in a hose, but the combination of such with a filler funnel made of the same type of material, or other limitations and steps that were not found in the prior art, the examiner did not find the use of PBT or PBN in hoses to be novel. With respect to the length and teachings of Kawazura, such is not persuasive where the reference teaches the layer as required and has motivation to combine as set forth above.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James F. Hook whose telephone number is (571) 272-4903. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Wednesday, work at home Thursdays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Mar can be reached on (571) 272-4906. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



James F. Hook
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3754

JFH